

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 EUR-12 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 EB-07 AID-05 /102 W

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R 040537Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2673

INFO COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14801

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MARR, JA

SUBJECT: SCHLESINGER VISIT TO JAPAN

1. DURING FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES SCHLESINGER'S VISIT TO JAPAN SEPTEMBER 29-30 EN ROUTE HOME FROM CHINA TRIP, HE DINED WITH JDA MINISTER SAKATA, AND PAID CALL ON EX FONMIN MIYAZAWA. HE BRIEFED EMBOFF ON HIS CONTACT WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS AS FOLLOWS.

2. AT SAKATA DINNER SEPTEMBER 29, JDA MINISTER VOWED THAT JDA WOULD NEVER AGAIN ALLOW DEFECTING AIRCRAFT TO BE HANDLED AS MIG-25 HAD BEEN. JDA WOULD STEP IN IMMEDIATELY AND ASSUME CHARGE. THIS TIME EFFORTS OF DEFENSE AGENCY HAD BEEN THWARTED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT WAS TOO TIMID AND POLICE AGENCY THAT WAS TOO LEGALISTIC. SAKATA ASSURED SCHLESINGER THAT PACE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND JAPAN WOULD BE MAINTAINED REGARDLESS OF CABINET CHANGES THAT HAD BEEN MADE AND COULD QUICKEN IN FUTURE. PRESS REPORTED SCHLESINGER TOLD SAKATA MIG-25 INCIDENT SHOULD BE HANDLED POSITIVELY THROUGH JAPAN-US COOPERATION AS A MUTUAL DEFENSE PROBLEM.

3. DURING MEETING WITH FORMER FONMIN, MIYAZAWA SAID THAT FONOFF HAD HANDLED MIG-25 REASONABLY WELL IN VIEW OF  
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PRESSURES FROM SOVIETS, DOMESTIC POLITICS, AND THE

UNITED STATES. HE ALLEGED JDA HAD NOT PERFORMED AS STRONGLY AS IT MIGHT HAVE IN CRISIS, BUT BASIC SOURCE OF CAUTION HAD BEEN PRIME MINISTER MIKI, WHO WAS PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT SOVIET ATTITUDES. IN GENERAL, MIYAZAWA CONTINUED, MIKI WAS CAUTIOUS ABOUT MOVING TOO QUICKLY WITH THE UNITED STATES ON DEFENSE COOPERATION. PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED COOPERATION WOULD IMPROVE ONCE MIKI STEPPED DOWN.

4. MIYAZAWA TOLD SCHLESINGER THAT MIKI WOULD, IN FACT, BE OUT OF OFFICE SOON. HE MIGHT NOT BE FORCED OUT BEFORE ELECTION, BUT PARTY WOULD VOTE HIM OUT AFTER POLL EVEN THOUGH LDP LIKELY TO PERFORM ADEQUATELY. WHEN SCHLESINGER ASKED WHETHER MIKI MIGHT NOT RULE AS PRIME MINISTER WITHOUT BEING PRESIDENT OF LDP, MIYAZAWA LOOKED PAINED AND SAID THAT SUCH WAS NOT TRADITIONAL PRACTICE IN JAPAN.

5. MIYAZAWA SAID HE LOST HIS CABINET POST BECAUSE HE COULD NOT SUPPORT MIKI'S EFFORT TO PERPETRATE "FRIDAY NIGHT MASSACRE" IN CABINET. HE GAVE SCHLESINGER IMPRESSION THAT HE EXPECTED TO BE BACK IN CABINET SOON. PERHAPS AS PRIME MINISTER.

6. SCHLESINGER TOLD EMBOFF HE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO LECTURE BOTH SAKATA AND MIYAZAWA ON JAPAN'S FAILURE TO SPEND EVEN 1 PER CENT OF GNP ON DEFENSE. HE ARGUED THAT EVEN INCREASED ASW CAPABILITY WOULD ENHANCE GOJ DIPLOMATIC STATURE IN ASIA. HODGSON

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## Message Attributes

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